



COMMON EDUCATION DATA STANDARDS

Multiple Programs Coordinate to Support State Understanding of ESSA Reporting Requirements

Fall 2016

In August 2016, the proposed revised *EDFacts* Information Collection package for SY 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 was made available for review and comment. The collection package is being revised in order to support the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as recently amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). To make it easier for state education agencies (SEAs) to determine the impact of the proposed changes, the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) technical assistance (TA) team created 10 CEDS Connectionsⁱ that will allow users to review the CEDS elements identified for the new *EDFacts* data groups. To maximize the awareness and dissemination of these important resources, broad collaboration occurred between five TA centers and programs. *This collaboration resulted in more than 2000 stakeholders being provided with information and access to tools and resources supporting ESSA implementation.*

TA Center & Program Collaboration

The development and dissemination of the ESSA Connections was the result of strong collaboration between several National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) programs and efforts: CEDS, the *EDFacts* Technical Support Services (ETSS) Partner Support Center (PSC), the ETSS Data Management and Acquisition teams, the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) State Support Team, the National Forum on Education Statistics (the Forum), and the Center for the Integration of IDEA Data (CIID).

Collection Package to Connections

The collaboration began with the ETSS team using CEDS to help inform broader discussions related to the federal reporting requirements of ESSA. Next came the posting of the proposed *EDFacts* Information Collection package by the ETSS team. Members of the ETSS Data Management and PSC teams collaborated with CEDS to ensure awareness and full understanding of the proposed changes resulting from ESSA. The CEDS team then began to build out CEDS Connections to be shared with states and relevant education data stakeholders, identifying the unit record level elements that might be needed in a state data system to meet the aggregate reporting requirements identified in the package.

Connection to Collaboration

Based on the information in the collection package, 10 CEDS Connections were developed and shared on the CEDS website, via the [Connect tool](#).ⁱⁱ While the CEDS initiative has a large education stakeholder community, the team also reached out to peer centers and organizations to ensure broader levels of awareness and support for states. Working with the ETSS Data Acquisition team, the CEDS team sent out messaging that let people know about the availability of the Connections to inform and support state *EDFacts* coordinators with their review of the package during the 60-day public comment period. The CEDS team also worked with the SLDS program to ensure that the SLDS program team, notably the State Support Team members, were aware of the Connections and how they might support state SLDS efforts to meet federal reporting requirements. The SLDS program also messaged their grantees and stakeholders via their community of practice and quarterly newsletter. The Forum represents



another group of education stakeholders that might benefit from the CEDS Connections. The CEDS and Forum teams communicated regarding the value and impact of the Connections for Forum members, and the Forum team provided messaging to this group. Finally, CEDS reached out to and coordinated with the CIID TA center to promote awareness and understanding of the CEDS Connections. Messaging then went out from the center to CIID's constituents.

Why It Matters

For those education data stakeholders (e.g., SEAs) with a shared CEDS Alignⁱⁱⁱ map, the myConnect feature can be used to crosswalk the CEDS elements identified in the *EDFacts* Connections to the corresponding elements from the selected Align maps, using CEDS as the bridge. This enables stakeholders, such as an SEA staff member who is reviewing and responding to the *EDFacts* Collection during the public comment period, to see which elements within their data system would be needed to meet the new ESSA-related federal reporting requirements. This not only provides greater awareness and transparency for the state staff responsible for ESSA implementation, but also provides more detailed information to inform state comments, ultimately resulting in a reduction of the burden that often exists when new reporting requirements are implemented.

Through broad collaboration across multiple TA centers and programs, more stakeholders have become aware of these CEDS resources. As a result, the stakeholders are able to interact with and respond to ESSA implications in a more informed way.

EDFacts Connections for the EDFacts Information Collection Package

Find Existing Connection by visiting the Find Existing Connection^{iv} page and then choosing “EDFacts” as the Category and “EDFacts – General” as the Descriptor. Or, search for “EDFacts Proposed Item” in the Search box.

ⁱ CEDS Connections are data use examples that identify both the elements and analysis recommendations for a myriad of education data use opportunities.

ⁱⁱ <https://ceds.ed.gov/connect.aspx>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://ceds.ed.gov/align.aspx>

^{iv} <https://ceds.ed.gov/connectFind.aspx?abbr=1>

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